

In the Abstract:

Please replace the paragraph at page 15, lines 3 to 21, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

~~The method is used to detect~~ A method detects the beginning of combustion in an internal combustion engine (1) ~~comprising having~~ several cylinders (2, 3, 4, 5), ~~by means of from~~ a rotation speed signal determined for a shaft (6) of the ~~internal combustion engine (1)~~. A segment signal (SS), whose signal length corresponds to an integral multiple of one or more full rotations of the shaft (6), is extracted from the rotation speed signal. A cylinder signal (ZS1, ZS2, ZS3, ZS4), which reproduces the operational state in a cylinder (2, 3, 4, 5), is generated from the segment signal (SS). The cylinder signal ~~(ZS1, ZS2, ZS3, ZS4)~~ is transformed into a cylinder frequency signal ~~(FS1, FS2, FS3, FS4)~~ in an angle angular frequency range. Signal information indicating the beginning of combustion in the associated cylinder ~~(2, 3, 4, 5)~~ is extracted from the cylinder frequency signal ~~(FS1, FS2, FS3, FS4)~~ at at least one predefined angle angular frequency.

~~[[Fig. 1]]~~

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]